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we may wish for a little more warmth on his part—his book is not light reading—and we may feel that if he were capable of more sympathy for the persons he describes, his views of them would perhaps be fairer; still his judgment is always sane. When, in his last page of all, he sums up the strength and weakness of the emperor whom he has taken such pains in describing, even if the characterization is not artistically brilliant, it is convincing as being the opinion of a sound and thoughtful scholar. We look forward with much interest to the continuation of the work.

ARCHIBALD CARY COOLIDGE.

The True Henry Clay. By JOSEPH M. ROGERS. (Philadelphia and London: J. B. Lippincott Company. 1904. Pp. 388.)

MR. ROGERS, as the other authors of the "True" series, starts out with the purpose of employing the odds and ends of material which discriminating historians have rejected as unimportant, in order to reverse popular judgments, which are, in large matters, generally correct. He is, however, too good a Kentuckian really to diminish Clay's shadow, and precisely in this local setting lies the peculiar value of his book.

The topical method prescribed for the series is less felt to be a disadvantage in this than in some of the other lives, for Clay was one of those precocious men who flash in full brilliancy upon their contemporaries. Moreover, Mr. Rogers uses his method with freedom, so that although we continually shift backward and forward, we nevertheless make progress from chapter to chapter; gradually becoming aware that, though Clay's mind did not develop, his information increased and his character grew. The loose, rambling, repetitious style, running at times even into errors of grammar, informs us at once that we are not to look here for the minor accuracies of scholarship. Nor are all the errors minor. It is an inexcusable mistake to attribute to Clay the Missouri compromise line of $36^{\circ} 30'$ (p. 238); Clay was more enthusiastic than Adams over the Panama Congress (p. 139); the sturdy descendants of Calhoun will view with surprise the statement that "if Calhoun had been blessed with a wife and children, the history of the country might have been very different" (p. 249). Nor is the lack of precision absolved by much contribution of new material. The book seems to have been written mainly from Colton's *Clay*, Adams's *Memoirs*, and Benton's *Thirty Years' View*, supplemented by a large personal knowledge derived from the press and from tradition. The author had access to certain Clay manuscripts, but their importance is not great. He has not the historical training to enable him to adjudge the value of this material, and the plan of the series forbids foot-notes; but he has met these disadvantages by giving in the text the sources of most new statements, and so allowing the reader to make an individual judgment. The absence of a good index is not serious in a book which cannot be used for reference, and whose value depends upon being read as a whole.

Read as a whole, the book produces an admirable impression. While lacking the equipment of Mr. Schurz for an understanding of national issues, Mr. Rogers abounds in shrewd observations and is nearly always fair in his treatment of the several sections and of the statesmen, except Calhoun. Nor is he especially guilty of the characteristic American vice of universal tolerance. In national affairs he is confident, but not always sure-footed, but once on the soil of Kentucky his tread is as certain as it is bold. His style carries one along until "coffee and pistols for two" seems the natural result of a senatorial colloquy; until one grasps the distinction between gambling in public resorts, playing for stakes with friends in a hotel, and playing in one's own home; until a Kentucky gentleman becomes distinguished alike from the frontiersman, the Cavalier, and the Puritan. One catches the charm of the blue-grass and almost shares Mr. Rogers's regret that the "siren of ambition" allured or the "demon of ambition" drew Clay so often from the delights of Ashland. Nor does Mr. Rogers reproduce simply the Kentucky of to-day. He so well makes us realize the conditions during the first half of the century that Clay's political programme rises naturally from his environment. The character of Kentucky slavery fully explains Clay's feeling with regard to that institution generally; his attitude in the War of 1812 and his advocacy of internal improvements and the tariff are seen to be the result of great forces at work around him, and we are shown exactly how the connection between the evolutionary and the personal element was made. Clay's personality is as happily developed as his environment. His sensitive, almost feminine nature, which made him particularly susceptible to his surroundings; his quick, intuitive mastery of new subjects; his subsequent lack of determination when policies conflicted, which brought him defeat when in conflict with narrower but stronger natures; and the charm and sweetness of his character are gradually made plain and fixed in the mind by illustrative stories. His superficiality is no more hidden than the quickness of his repartee and the power of his voice. It is true that the text does not convey a full appreciation of his power of leadership, but this defect is in part remedied by three illuminating portraits, now for the first time published.

This biography detracts no whit from the value of Schurz's account of the national activities of Henry Clay, but it will give the general reader a much better idea of the man, and can be neglected by no student of American history, unless, perchance, he has had the good fortune to be born in Kentucky.

CARL RUSSELL FISH.

Abraham Lincoln. By ELLIS PAXSON OBERHOLTZER, Ph.D. [American Crisis Biographies.] (Philadelphia: George W. Jacobs and Company. 1904. Pp. 389.)

It is unfortunate that a person so "discriminating" as Dr. Oberholtzer in his "standards of elegance" (p. 332) should become the